

We claim:

1. The use of a copolymer A containing
 - a) from 50 to 99% by weight of at least one N-vinyllactam or N-vinylamine selected from the group consisting of N-vinylpyrrolidone, N-vinylpiperidone, N-vinylcaprolactam, N-vinylimidazole, methylated N-vinylimidazole, and N-vinylformamide, and
 - b) from 1 to 50% by weight of at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of
 - b₁) C₈-C₃₀-alkyl esters of monoethylenically unsaturated C₃-C₈ carboxylic acids;
 - b₂) N-C₈-C₃₀-alkyl-substituted amides of monoethylenically unsaturated C₃-C₈ carboxylic acids;
 - b₃) N,N-C₈-C₃₀-dialkyl-substituted amides of monoethylenically unsaturated C₃-C₈ carboxylic acids;
 - b₄) vinyl esters of aliphatic C₈-C₃₀ carboxylic acids; and
 - b₅) C₈-C₃₀-alkyl vinyl ethers
- to produce a membrane, the membrane comprising, as further component, hydrophobic polymers B selected from the group consisting of polysulfones, polycarbonates, polyamides, polyvinyl chloride, hydrophobically modified acrylic polymers, polyethers, polyurethanes, polyurethane copolymers, water-insoluble cellulose derivatives, and mixtures of such polymers.
2. The use as claimed in claim 1 of a copolymer A containing
 - a) from 60 to 99% by weight of N-vinylpyrrolidone and
 - b) from 1 to 40% by weight of at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of
 - b₁) C₈-C₃₀-alkyl esters of monoethylenically unsaturated C₃-C₈ carboxylic acids;
 - b₂) N-C₈-C₃₀-alkyl-substituted amides of monoethylenically unsaturated C₃-C₈ carboxylic acids;
 - b₃) N,N-C₈-C₃₀-dialkyl-substituted amides of monoethylenically unsaturated C₃-C₈ carboxylic acids;
 - b₄) vinyl esters of aliphatic C₈-C₃₀ carboxylic acids; and
 - b₅) C₈-C₃₀-alkyl vinyl ethers.

12

3. The use as claimed in claim 1 or 2 of copolymer A containing
- a) from 60 to 99% by weight of N-vinylpyrrolidone and
 - 5 b) from 1 to 40% by weight of at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of
 - b₁) C₁₂-C₂₂-alkyl esters of monoethylenically unsaturated C₃-C₈ carboxylic acids;
 - b₂) N-C₁₂-C₁₈-alkyl-substituted amides of
 - 10 monoethylenically unsaturated C₃-C₈ carboxylic acids;
 - b₃) N,N-C₁₂-C₁₈-dialkyl-substituted amides of monoethylenically unsaturated C₃-C₈ carboxylic acids;
 - b₄) vinyl esters of aliphatic C₈-C₁₈ carboxylic acids; and
 - 15 b₅) C₈-C₂₂-alkyl vinyl ethers.
4. The use as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the copolymer A is used in amounts of from 0.1 to 25% by weight, based on the total amount of polymers used.
- 20 5. The use as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the copolymer A is used in combination with one or more further polymers.
- 25 6. The use as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5, wherein the hydrophobic polymers B are used in amounts of from 50 to 99.9% by weight, based on the total amount of polymers used.
- 30 7. The use as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6, wherein the membrane further comprises, as polymers C, hydrophilic polymers selected from the group consisting of polyvinylpyrrolidones, polyethylene glycols, polyethylene glycol monoesters, polyethylene glycol-propylene glycol copolymers, water-soluble cellulose derivatives,
- 35 polysorbates, and mixtures of such polymers.
8. The use as claimed in claim 7, wherein the hydrophilic polymers C are used in amounts of from 10 to 40% by weight, based on the total amount of polymers used.
- 40

45

13

9. A semipermeable, water-wettable membrane comprising at least one copolymer A formed from

5 a) from 50 to 99% by weight of at least one N-vinyl lactam or N-vinylamine selected from the group consisting of N-vinylpyrrolidone, N-vinylpiperidone, N-vinylcaprolactam, N-vinylimidazole, methylated N-vinylimidazole, and N-vinylformamide, and

10 b) from 1 to 50% by weight of at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of
b₁) C₈-C₃₀-alkyl esters of monoethylenically unsaturated C₃-C₈ carboxylic acids;
b₂) N-C₈-C₃₀-alkyl-substituted amides of
15 monoethylenically unsaturated C₃-C₈ carboxylic acids;
b₃) N,N-C₈-C₃₀-dialkyl-substituted amides of monoethylenically unsaturated C₃-C₈ carboxylic acids;
b₄) vinyl esters of aliphatic C₈-C₃₀ carboxylic acids;
and
20 b₅) C₈-C₃₀-alkyl vinyl ethers,

and, as hydrophobic polymer component B, a polymer selected from the group consisting of polysulfones, polycarbonates, polyamides, polyvinyl chloride, hydrophobically modified
25 acrylic polymers, polyethers, polyurethanes, polyurethane copolymers, cellulose acetates, cellulose nitrates, and mixtures thereof.

10. A membrane as claimed in claim 9, obtainable using a
30 copolymer A in amounts of from 0.1 to 25% by weight.

11. A membrane as claimed in claim 9 or 10 comprising in addition a hydrophilic polymer C selected from the group consisting of polyvinylpyrrolidones, polyethylene glycols, polyglycol
35 monoesters, copolymers of polyethylene glycol with propylene glycol, water-soluble derivatives of cellulose, polysorbates, and mixtures thereof.

40

45